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SECRETARY HERZFELDER CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY IN MASSACHUSETTS WITH STATE, FEDERAL AND MUNICIPAL PARTNERS

Massachusetts Environmental Affairs Secretary Ellen Roy Herzfelder joined federal, state, local and non-profit partners at Southwest Corridor Park (across from English High School) in Jamaica Plain today to celebrate Arbor Day. Presentation of Urban Forestry Inner City Planning and Education Grants, Library Planning and Education Grants, Mass ReLeaf Grants and a tree planting ceremony were highlights of the program.

Secretary Herzfelder began by joining Acting Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Stephen R. Pritchard in awarding the cities of Boston, Cambridge, Somerville and Fall River with Urban Forestry Inner City Planning and Education grants totaling \$93,426 for a variety programs to build the capacity of municipalities to manage their urban forests. The grant program is funded by the USDA Forest Service and administered by DCR's Office of Urban and Community Forestry. The Fall River Public Library also received \$3,670 to enhance the library's educational materials and programs relating to community forestry.

"Public trees provide enormous benefits to communities," said Secretary Herzfelder. "They clean our air and water, reduce temperatures, strengthen neighborhoods and improve the quality of life for all residents. It's appropriate on Arbor Day to celebrate grants which will provide residents of these Massachusetts cities with the enjoyment and benefit of a greener environment for generations to come."

Secretary Herzfelder also announced \$102,475 in Mass ReLeaf grants to 26 communities and non-profit groups to plant more than 500 public shade trees throughout the state. Mass ReLeaf is a fund within the DCR Conservation Trust designed to foster partnerships between business, government, and nonprofit groups for the planting and care of public trees. Funding is actively sought from public and private sources, including institutions, corporations, individual supporters and state and federal government. (See full list of grants attached.)

Following the speaking program, attendees participated in an Arbor Day tree planting ceremony.

For more information on DCR's Urban Forestry Program, call 617-626-1468.

Inner City Planning and Education Grants:

City of Cambridge - \$24,226 for a project titled, "Comprehensive Tree Management Inventory." The grant will fund the development of a new, comprehensive street tree inventory system to allow Cambridge to be a better steward of the city's public trees.

City of Fall River - \$9,200 for a project titled, "Fall River Tree Steward Project." The grant will allow the city to continue its urban forest education program that was originally funded by a previous DCR grant. These funds will also help fall River expand the number of trained volunteer tree stewards in the city.

City of Somerville - \$20,000 for a project titled, "Growing a Sustainable Forest in Somerville." The grant will assist the city in its efforts to gather and analyze urban forest data, perform tree appraisals, make proper diagnosis and management recommendations, provide expert witness testimony and conduct outreach and education. Grant funds will be used to hire an arborist and develop a community support network.

City of Boston - \$40,000 for a project titled, "Implementation of the Greater Boston Urban Forest Inventory." The grant will allow the city to implement an urban forest inventory and management system, the development of which was previously funded in part through a DCR grant.

Public Library Urban Forestry Planning and Education Grant:

City of Fall River - \$ 3,670 for a project titled, "Arbor Day in Fall River." The purpose of the grant is to assist the public library in developing and implementing a series of Arbor Day/urban forestry related activities and resources during April and May of 2005. Activities will include workshops, storytellers, puppet shows, and the development of posters and other educational materials that will relate the benefits of a healthy urban forest. Funds will also be used to purchase new urban forestry materials for the library's collection.

Mass ReLeaf Grants:

Berkshire Botanical Garden (Stockbridge, MA): \$520 to plant 6 trees along route 102 in Stockbridge.

City of Fitchburg: \$2,000 to plant 10 trees at sites on Main Street, Elm Street and North Street.

First Congregational Church of Gardner: \$2,945 to plant 16 trees at local middle school.

City of Pittsfield: \$1,350 to plant 10 trees at Williams Elementary School.

City of Pittsfield: \$5,000 to plant 25 trees in the "Morningside Neighborhood."

Town of Hatfield: \$2,500 to plant 10 trees on the newly created town common.

Town of Charlton: \$4,945 to plant 30 trees at sites on route 31, near Memorial Athletic Field, at the Town Hall and at the library.

City of West Springfield: \$2,564 to plant 16 trees on Ohio Avenue.

Earthworks, Inc. of Boston: \$5,000 to plant 549 small trees at Boston's Urban Wilds sites throughout the city.

Town of Dalton: \$2,600 to plant 13 trees at sites along route 8 and route 9.

Town of Lenox: \$3,000 to plant 15 trees at sites in the historic village district and on Crystal Street in Lenox Dale.

Town of Longmeadow: \$4,158 to plant 22 trees at sites along Grassy Gutter Road and along Bliss Road.

Wisteriahurst Museum in Holyoke: \$4,963 to plant 26 trees on the museum grounds along Cabot Street, Pine Street, Hampshire Street and Beech Street

City of Easthampton: \$1,940 to plant 10 trees in the Pleasant Street Neighborhood.

Town of Manchester by the Sea: \$5,000 to plant 25 trees at sites on Beach Street and Summer Street.

Town of Winchendon: \$1,800 to plant 8 trees at the intersection of Route 140 and Old Gardner Road.

Urban Ecology Institute at Boston College: \$5,000 to plant 26 trees at sites within the Boston's Hope Neighborhood in Dorchester and along Hamilton Avenue in Lynn.

Town of Lexington: \$4,420 to plant 26 trees along the Minuteman Bikeway.

Walnut Hill Association in Natick: \$3,800 to plant 19 trees in Loker Park.

City of Chelsea: \$8,720 to plant 56 trees at sites on Chestnut Street, Spencer Avenue, Upper Broadway and at Carey Square.

Greater Fall River Council of Churches: \$3,945 to plant 20 trees in Pulaski Park in Fall River.

Hillside Neighborhood Association in Milton: \$5,000 to plant 27 trees at sites in the neighborhood.

City of New Bedford: \$5,735 to plant 31 trees at the Whaletooth Parking Lot along Acushnet Avenue and Hillman Street.

City of Worcester: \$4,940 to plant 32 trees in the Chandler Street Neighborhood.

City of Winthrop: \$7,830 to plant 62 trees in a municipal tree nursery to be established in the Belle Isle Cemetery.

Town of Boxford: \$2,800 to plant 14 trees on key traffic islands throughout the town.

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